

B.C.G. AND VOLE VACCINATION. By K. Neville Irvine, M.A., D.M.(Oxon.).
(Pp. 96; figs. 4; plates 10. 12s. 6d.) London: N.A.P.T., Tavistock House
North, Tavistock Square, W.C.1, 1954.

IN this small book, which fits the pocket easily, Dr. Neville Irvine has provided a compact, eminently readable and concise guide to the history, principles and practice of B.C.G. vaccination with up-to-date information on the progress of vaccination with Wells' vole vaccine (*Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, var. *muris*).

The book is divided into eight chapters, with a foreword by Professor F. Heaf. The different vaccines are described, and their safety and effectiveness discussed. The techniques of tuberculin testing and vaccination, the reading of results and the complications of vaccination are detailed and commented on.

Perhaps more stress might have been laid on the importance of keeping separate syringes and needles earmarked for different strengths of tuberculin for the Mantoux test. The difficulty of ridding a syringe completely from antitoxic serum is well known, and tuberculin is an even more tenacious fluid. For mass testing at clinics and schools the changing of the needle between each injection, while somewhat laborious, is to be strongly recommended (vide M.R.C. Memorandum, No. 15—'The Sterilization, Use and Care of Syringes'). Spare heads are provided for the multiple-puncture vaccination apparatus, so that a fresh sterile head can be used while the others are being sterilised. It would be an advantage to have the same provision for the Heaf multiple-puncture tuberculin test apparatus.

Dr. Irvine discusses the question of the necessity for conversion testing and follow-up, especially in schoolchildren who are likely to be exposed only to casual infection. The experience of many years and trial of many antigens were necessary before the routine use of the post-Schick test was omitted in diphtheria immunization. It is, perhaps, premature to recommend a similar procedure for B.C.G. vaccination till fuller information is available, especially as the vole vaccine is still on trial, but the first step towards omission of the conversion test would, as mentioned by Dr. Irvine, be the carrying out of conversion tests on selected samples of the vaccinated population.

The author's style is lucid, and the coloured plates are excellent. The book is well produced and can be strongly recommended to all doctors and nursing personnel engaged in the struggle against tuberculosis.

V. D. A.

NOTES ON INFANT FEEDING. By Stanley Graham, M.D., F.R.C.P.(Ed.),
F.R.F.P.S.(Glas.), and Robert Shanks, M.D., M.R.C.P.(Lond.), F.R.F.P.S.
(Glas.). Fourth edition. (Pp. 74. 4s. 6d.) Edinburgh: Livingstone, 1954.

THIS little book, now in its fourth edition, has been designed by the authors for the use of medical students, but there is no doubt that it will, as they hope, be of great value to the family doctor who is interested in the correct feeding of infants.

The authors put first things first by devoting the first section of the book to a discussion of the advantages of breast-feeding and the ways in which the doctor can help the mother to establish this. They introduce this section by stating that in the western world breast-feeding is in danger of extinction, and stress that this is in no way due to any inherent inability to suckle. If the simple methods advised in this book were applied by all doctors dealing with mothers and babies, the incidence of successful feeding could be raised far above the present figure of some 20 per cent. of mothers in Northern Ireland.

The sections on artificial feeding are also very sound. One might raise some slight practical objection to the use of the metric system in calculating feeds for different weights of baby, since very few mothers will be conversant with this system, and a double conversion will be necessary for the doctor using it. The recommended intake of vitamin D is possibly on the high side, in view of the recent suggestions that hypercalcaemia of infancy may result from overdosage with this vitamin.

These are, however, very minor criticisms of a booklet which can be recommended with confidence for senior students and doctors concerned with infant welfare.

W. A. B. C.